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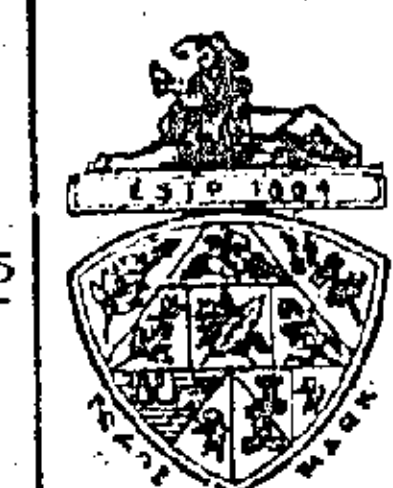
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Our communications relating to the news columns should be addressed to THE EDITOR. Correspondents must forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith. All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

No anonymous or signed communications that have already appeared in other papers will be inserted. Orders for extra copies of *The Daily Press* should be sent before 11 a.m. on day of publication. After that hour the supply is limited. Only supplied for Cash. Telegraphic Address: Press. Code: A.R.O. 214 215. Lister's P.O. Box, 38. Telephone No. 12.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD, C.I.

LONGKONG OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

HONGKONG, APRIL 20TH, 1905.

The intentions of Admiral Rozhdestvensky and his officers are now an open book to naval experts. The line of proposed action by the Baltic Fleet is, obviously, to take in stores, to clean ship, and to "stand easy" as a preliminary to attempting a run to Vladivostok. It is thought that, besides filling their bunkers, the Russian ships will certainly take heavy deck cargoes of coal. This accumulation of coal above, if properly stowed, is unlikely to be any hindrance to the efficient working of the guns and ships. On the contrary, naval officers know that coal is one of the best "shot stoppers" that can be provided; and so it serves the double purpose of affording a certain amount of protection, and of extending the mobility of the fleet. The latter is an important point, for it is probable that if the Armada once makes its dash for the northern port, Cam Ranh Bay will have been its last voluntary halting place. Provisions in Anam are both plentiful and cheap; and all that Admiral Rozhdestvensky should possibly require is to his hand. As the Americans express it, it is now "up to him" to make the attempt, "hit or miss." The prospects of his enterprise cannot be made any rosier by further delay. Some weakness is inevitable in his fleet of forty-seven vessels, but it will be set down to abnormally bad handling, and to a total lack of naval "dash and go," if all of them fail to reach their objective; or, conversely, it will give to the Japanese navy more kudos than ever if it should have the extraordinary luck to stop the whole of such a great Armada. Newspaper

readers have so often been told that the Baltic squadron consists of old or obsolete craft that they may well fail to realise how really formidable it is. Even if beaten in the first engagement, it is not to be assumed that remnants of it will not remain for some considerable time to threaten transport and commerce. Some people think that the fact of feeling "at bay" will endow the Russians with a better moral than that which the easy confidence, born of past successes, is likely to give the Japanese. This we are not prepared to endorse, for we have seen how the Russian is more prone to count the cost than is the Japanese fighter. Certainly the Russians enjoy one benefit: they have learned to respect the enemy. So have the Japanese, but they do not express it in terms of over-respect. They have climbed from respect for the enemy to self-respect: the Russian began with contempt for the enemy, and their exaggerated self-confidence must now be tinged with a little self-distrust. It is, however, mainly shooting that counts; and these psychological factors may be credited with greater importance than they deserve. Russians are not good sailors; Japanese are. Russian officers are aristocrats, with a constitutional regard for their own value: Japanese officers are professionals, and they make their country's quarrel a personal matter. Thus the "man behind the gun" on the Japanese side has a better brain to control and direct him. Skill, experience, enthusiasm, sobriety, love of and aptitude for the sea, all preponderate with Admiral Togo's side; but the Japanese admiral seems to have the advantage in numbers, so that we must not attempt to minimise the hardness of the nut which Togo has now to crack. When he will give a good account of himself when the time comes is absolutely sure; and as the party with a just quarrel is supposed to be thrice armed, we are entitled to look for a continuance of the good fortune which has attended our Allies' efforts to chastise the Bully of the Far East. The issue could not be in surer hands.

On Good Friday, 21st instant, at eight o'clock, the choir of St. Peter's Church, assisted by friends, will give Stainer's "Crucifixion."

Before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court yesterday, Paere, a Spaniard, was charged with attempting to stow-away on the *s.s. Glenloch*. He was fined \$25, with the alternative of one month's imprisonment.

The new Peak tramway has advanced another stage. We hear that a compromise is probable with regard to the terminus of the new track, and that an influential combination of interests is being arranged. At present reports appear to be in the confidential stage.

While the master of No. 61 Station Street, Yau-mut, was away in the country worshipping at his ancestors' tomb, two of his folk, who were left in charge of the shop, stole a box of his clothing and sundry other articles. The theft was discovered, and the two men were placed before Mr. F. A. Hazeland at the Police Court yesterday on a charge of larceny. The first defendant was discharged, and the second sentenced to two months' imprisonment with hard labour.

As an outcome of the last successful "smoker" held under the auspices of the Masonic Quadrangle Club, the committee have decided to hold a similar function to-night, and judging from the programme before us, the concert bids fair to be equally as good as, if not to eclipse, its predecessor. Every consideration has been given to the comfort of the guests, and as will be seen from our advertisement columns, nothing has been left undone that will conduce to the harmony of the evening. As on the previous occasion, the old Chamber of Commerce Room has been requisitioned for the eve.

As in the recent case of the *Easty*, the Japanese have made a mistake in seizing the British steamer *Saxon Prince* in the Tushima Straits. The *Saxon Prince* was bound from New York to Shanghai and Muroran (Japan). She had discharged the Shanghai portion of her cargo and was proceeding to Muroran with rails. War risks on the cargo had been underwritten at nominal premiums, as, of course, the risks contemplated were those of possible seizure by Russians, not by Japanese. No doubt, suggests the *Times*, the *Saxon Prince*, like the *Fastry*, will promptly be released. The *Saxon Prince* is owned by the Prince Line.

M. Oiginsky, the correspondent of the *Novoe Vremya*, tells how the Japanese missed capturing an enormous booty, during the flight from Mukden, through their failure to cut the railway on the 8th inst. On that day 450 carloads of artillery left Mukden and reached Tieling and 16 trains of from 52 to 55 carriages arrived at Tieling on the following day. Of these, three carried projectiles, one the park belonging to the remaining batteries, one warm clothing, one coal, one engineer stores, three commissariat stores, and one hospital requirements. There were also six trains of wounded. The trains travelled without lights at intervals of eight minutes.

TELEGRAMS.

[REUTERS' SERVICE.]

RUSSIA AND REFORM.

LONDON, 17th April.

The Constitutional party forming in Russia includes seven members of the Council of the Empire, besides Senators and other prominent officials. The Party is issuing several thousand invitations throughout the Empire, to a conference at St. Petersburg on the subject of reform. A scheme has already been drawn up for the composition of a representative assembly.

THE WAR.

[REUTERS' SERVICE.]

R. D. VENSKEY'S "DARING SKILL."

LONDON, 17th April.

The Russians are elated at the daring skill of Admiral Rozhdestvensky, and state that he is coal and cleaning his fleet at Kamranah prior to engaging the Japanese.

IN MANCHURIA.

LONDON, 17th April.

General Linevitch reports that the Russian left on the 11th instant, attacked the village of Pouchoul, five miles to the eastward of Meian. The flanks of the Japanese were enveloped, and they retired to Meian, which is their advanced post on the Kirin road.

NO NEWS.

All yesterday's arrivals were visited, but had nothing worth adding to the Baltic Fleet records. The British steamer *Pinna* saw the Russians in the Straits of Malacca, but that was a long time ago. The German steamer *Maidlein* *Richards* saw two war vessels near Saigon, believed to be French, which is not to be wondered at. Until operations at Camranh Bay are finished, we are not likely to learn anything new.

"BALITICERS" AND THE HAMBURG-AMERICAN LINE.

Replying to Herr Babel in the Reichstag on March 16th, Count von Bulow made the following statement with regard to the circumstances in which ships belonging to the Hamburg-American Line were chartered to transport coal for the Russian Baltic Fleet.

"According to the specific assurances which have been given by the Hamburg-American Line, the German transports are not to accompany the Russian fleet. Their sole function consists in conveying coal for delivery at appointed neutral ports, and they are not to proceed to these ports in conjunction with the Russian warships, but independently and by other routes. Nothing whatever is known with regard to the application of illegal coercion by the Russian fleet to members of the crews of the German transports, either during their voyage or in particular off Madagascar. Indeed, the statement is in the highest degree incredible. If the Russian admiral should have taken certain measures in order to secure the preservation of secrecy with regard to their dispositions and with regard to the condition of their forces, and if the freedom of the German seamen's movements in their relations with the Russian ships has been restricted, there could hardly be any objection to these proceedings. If the Hamburg-American Line in their dealings with their customers should have violated the provisions of German law and the terms of their contract with the sea, we would, as a matter of course, call the company to strict account in Germany. As a matter of fact, there has not hitherto been the slightest evidence that the Hamburg-American Line has in any way contravened its obligation."

MINES IN THE GULF OF PE-CHILI.

In the House of Commons on March 16th, Sir P. Dwyer (Tower Hamlets, St. George's) asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether his attention had been called to the danger to British shipping in Chinese waters through floating mines in the Gulf of Pe-chili; and whether he could see his way to co-operate with other Powers to secure their destruction.

Earl Percy.—We are in communication with the Japanese Government on the subject. Sir P. Dwyer afterwards asked the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he was aware that floating mines in the Gulf of Pe-chili constituted a danger to shipping in Chinese waters, and caused much consternation amongst shipping firms at Tientsin; and would he communicate with the Commander-in-Chief of the British squadron on the China Station on the subject, or take such other action as he might deem necessary to secure the destruction of these mines.

Mr. Prestman (Suffolk, Woodbridge).—The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The Commander-in-Chief has already been communicated with, and he has reported several cases in which mines have been sighted by his Majesty's ships. As many as possible of these mines have been destroyed, and any others that may be met with will be destroyed. "Any others that may be met with" is not sufficient. Not many will be met with by ships idling in port. They ought to go and look for them. It is a more pressing matter than experimenting with wireless messages that they cannot read.

THE EX-DALAI LAMA AGAIN.

According to a Peking dispatch the Imperial Resident at Urga, Mongolia, has reported to the Grand Council that there has been some trouble in persuading the ex-Dalai Lama to leave Urga for Tibet owing to the intrigues of Russian agents who want to get him to escape into Russian territory, so that they may use him at some future time for their own political purposes. In consequence, however, of the strict watch kept upon the ex-Dalai Lama's movements by the Imperial Resident, Yeh Chih, who, by the way was in 1900, Tactai of Amoy, the ex-Pontiff of the Buddhist faith has been unable to effect his escape and has given a promise to leave for Tibet via interior towns of China Proper and Szechuan province by the middle of the present month. The Chinese Government will breathe more freely once the Pontiff has left Mongolia.—*N-G Daily News*.

"ENGLAND EXPECTS."

WHAT THE CHINA SQUADRON SHOULD DO.

The admirable care with which the coasting steamers are navigated is shown by the fact that so far only one steamer, the *Koching*, has actually struck one of these mines; but escape was marvellous, but it is hardly to be expected that the next victim will get off as lightly. The shipowners and the Press have done their best to urge on the British authorities the duty that lies upon our navy. Our navy exists not only to defend Great Britain from invasion, but also to safeguard British commerce all over the world, and a still louder claim is the claim of humanity. There will be a great outcry and a demand that somebody shall be brought to account if a British steamer with a number of passengers on board disappears suddenly in the danger zone; it will be too late then, and now is the time that preventive measures should be taken. H.M.S. *Togue* did destroy three mines the other day while she was practising firing, but one more vessel, the *Lo-chang*, has already destroyed four or more. It is known that H. E. Yuen Shih-ai, Viceroy of Chihli, as Superintendent of Northern Trade, did give orders that a Chinese cruiser should go out to Shantung waters to destroy mines, but there is no knowledge that anything has been actually done. In fact it has been confidently stated that the cruiser detailed for the work is in the *Yalu*. It is to the British navy that the British merchant marine naturally and properly looks for protection, and it is not consonant with our recollection of what the British navy has done here in the past that a deaf ear should be turned to the appeal from British shipping. It is a pressing matter; every steamer that leaves a Tientsin for Shanghai or Shanghai for Tientsin is in constant danger of being highly dangerous zone, and has to trust largely to good luck to get through it safely. With the constant stream of travel both ways, a large number of valuable lives are in danger all the time. The danger is removable and ought to be removed; and British steamers, which form the majority of the shipping interested, look to the British Commander-in-Chief to do everything in his power to remove the danger, which the Navy is prepared to abdicate altogether the leading position it has always held in China.—*N-G Daily News*.

AN EARLY RUSSIAN ESTIMATE OF JAPAN.

Mr. G. H. Baillie writes from 18, Polhampton, S.W., on March 12:—"In 1819 was published a translation of 'Recollections of Japan,' written by Golownin, a captain in the Russian Navy. A chapter on national character contains a forecast which, in the light of present events, is of peculiar interest. Golownin, too, gives a warning to the countrymen which they might well have taken to heart. I transcribe the following passages from the writings of this shrewd traveller:—"What must we expect of this numerous, ingenious, and industrious people, who are capable of everything, and much inclined to imitate all that is foreign, should ever have a Sovereign like our Peter the Great, with the resources and treasures which Japan possesses, he would enable it to become, in a few years, the Sovereign of the Eastern Ocean. However deeply a horror of everything foreign may be impressed on the Japanese and Chinese Government, yet a change in their system is not inconceivable; necessity may compel them to do that to which their own free will does not impel them! Attacks, for example, like that of Chiosoff, often repeated, could probably induce them to do this. I imagine that a handful of vagabonds who disturbed a nation. This might lead them to build ships of war on the model of those of Europe; these ships might increase to fleets, and then it is probable that the good success of this measure would lead them also to adopt the other scientific methods which are so applicable to the destruction of the human race. In this manner all the inventions of Europe might gradually make root in Japan, even with the creative spirit of a Peter, merely by the power and concurrence of circumstance. The Japanese certainly would not be in want of teachers if they would only invite them. I therefore believe that this just and upright people must, by no means, be provoked."—*Times*.

THE INDEMNITY QUESTION.

The *Times* says:—"There is hardly room for any difference of opinion about the meaning of the postponement of the loan which Russia has sought to negotiate in France. It is a significant indication that the remarkable patience and liberality of Russia's ally are now on the point of exhaustion, and that apprehension concerning the security of the huge sums already advanced was preventing the throwing of more money into the Russian military chest. A rumour that reaches us as we go to press that the loan has been negotiated after all, on the original French terms, would not, even if authenticated, materially alter the situation. Beyond recognition that the point of exhaustion has been reached, opinion ceases to be unanimous. It is thought, on one hand, that the stoppage of supplies will induce or compel Russia to sue for peace. It is even hinted that, if the war were stopped, money would be forthcoming to help Russia out of her difficulties, although it is evident, as our Paris Correspondent points out, that the prospect of having to advance money for a war indemnity is regarded with justifiable uneasiness. Optimism seems to be nourished upon the theory that Japan really cannot expect an indemnity which would seriously injure Russia's prestige. We find it difficult to conceive that the maintenance of Russian prestige can be an object so dear to the hearts of Japanese statesmen that for its sake they should forego any part of the advantage which they have won at such a tremendous cost in blood and in money. An indemnity counts double. It weakens their adversary and it strengthens themselves. Without pretending to any knowledge of Japanese intentions, we may surmise on general principles that more regard for the prestige of Russia or for the interests of those who have lent money to Russia will scarcely be allowed to weigh against considerations of national security or advantage. While some think that money troubles will make for peace, if only by making it more difficult to continue the war, others take a different view, in which they seem to be confirmed by the bellicose tone of many communications from St. Petersburg. It is always difficult to appraise the value of loud protestations as to the impossibility of making terms. They sometimes precede the very action they declare impossible. But without laying too much stress upon these things, we are bound to recognize a complete absence of any substantial sign that peace is to be sought at present. Anything may come out of the indecision which afflicts the Tsar; but the oligarchy behind him is fighting for its very existence, it sees in peace another menace to its privileges, and it has no other instinct than to go on in its scented way."

THE HSIN-MIN-TUN RAILWAY.

The *Times* had the three interesting despatches following:—

Peking, 14th March.

For several months past trains loaded with foodstuffs have been running daily to the Russians at Mukden along the Imperial railway, via Kuan-pan-tse, to Hsin-min-tun, while the Russians throughout the war have entirely ignored the neutrality of the country traversed by this section of the railway, and treated it as within the sphere of military operations. Military reasons compelled the Japanese to occupy Hsin-min-tun and cut off this important source of supplies. On Sunday the Chinese railway authorities, threatened by the Russians and influenced by the Russo-Chinese Bank, closed the railway beyond Kuan-pan-tse and withdrew the rolling stock between Nin-chwang and Hsin-min-tun.

The effect was serious, preventing the movement to the Japanese of foodstuffs permitted to the Russians. The Japanese are indignant; they are fighting for the integrity of China, but are constantly meeting with obstruction from conservative Chinese officials who still cling to their fear of Russian supremacy. Japan now endeavours to induce the Chinese to reconsider this attitude of unfriendly discrimination. Unless the Chinese reopen the line they will be within their rights in adopting serious measures.

Niu-chwang, 13th March.

A prominent official of the Hsin-min-tun line with whom I have had an interview said:—"The neutrality of the line has long been fiction. The methods adopted by the Russians in overcoming the scruples of the officials, and their violation of the regulations regarding the shipment of ammunition and foodstuffs, are open secrets. The Cantonese directors are believed to be responsible for the new departure. The who a matter has been referred to Peking and to Tientsin."

Tientsin, 13th March.

The Chinese managers maintain that they are justified in supplying the train service on the Ying-kau-Kuan-pan-tse-Hsin-min-tun line, as the action of the Japanese in forcing them to break their neutrality by carrying contraband left them no alternative but to cease the service entirely.

GERMAN "INDIGNATION" UNPOLITICAL.

In the course of his reply to Herr Babel in the Reichstag on March 16th, Count von Bulow again protested against the S. C. A. attacks upon Russia, and maintained that the Social Democratic Press had endeavoured to poison the relations between England and Russia and to excite animosity between Germany and Russia in connexion with the Dogger Bank incident and the bombardment of an insignificant German trawler by Admiral Rozhdestvensky's squadron. The word "indignation" had been repeatedly employed by Herr Babel in his references to the present condition of Russia. On one occasion Prince Bismarck, dealing with a despatch which he (Count von Bulow) had written when he was a young charge d'affaires, had informed him that the word "indignation" was "not a political expression." Politicians, Prince Bismarck had observed, were "more or less pleasantly affected" by events, but they did not indulge in "indignation."

The Germans had too strong a tendency to raise indignant protests against what took place in foreign countries. Seventy or 80 years ago they had had an agitation in favour of the Greeks, followed by an agitation in favour of the Poles, and more recently they had excited themselves in behalf of the Bulgarians. They had subsequently indulged in a movement on behalf of the Boers (*Burenvrienden*). There was now an attempt on the Left to excite an agitation with regard to Russia, but it was as great a mistake to regard events in that country through the spectacles of Liberalism as it would have been at the time of the Holy Alliance to judge everything that took place in Europe from the point of view of Legitimist principles. When Herr Babel suggested that the German Government would like to offer assistance to Russia he could only reply that German assistance had not been asked and that there was no intention of offering it. There was no thought of interfering in the domestic affairs of Russia or of risking German lives and German property without reason. His personal opinion of the Russian system of government was a matter quite apart from their foreign policy.

VICKERS SMACKS HIM.

The annual meeting of shareholders in Vickers, Sons, and Maxim (Limited) was held on March 14th at a meeting of Mr. T. E. Vickers presiding. In moving the adoption of the report, the Chairman said some of the shareholders had suggested that they would have preferred a larger dividend, but the directors desired to be in a position to declare an interim dividend, and in order to do that they must satisfy the auditors. Instead of going to that trouble they had preferred to declare a dividend equal to 12½ per cent. for the year, and to carry the balance forward to the next interim dividend. The attitude of the auditors was natural, because there were the preference shareholders as well as ordinary shareholders to be thought of.

Mr. Albert Vickers seconded the resolution. Mr. J. H. Bentley asked if the profits from the holding of the company in William Beardmore and Sons had been brought into the present balance-sheet.

The Chairman—Those of last year come into this balance-sheet. Mr. E. R. Dakin, a Sheffield shareholder, asked whether, considering that Vickers, Sons, and Maxim held a half share in William Beardmore and Sons, the chairman would allow that it was relevant at that meeting to discuss the accounts of that subsidiary company and to ask questions thereon. He desired to discuss the proposal set out some weeks ago by Messrs. Beardmore and Sons asking for the balance of their half-million sterling of debentures.

The Chairman—We have nothing to do with that. We are shareholders in Messrs. Beardmore's, but we cannot interfere; at least I cannot interfere with any management of their business.

Mr. Dakin—Do you not think that we, as shareholders having a large interest in Messrs. Beardmore's, ought to have the privilege of discussing any of their accounts?

The Chairman—No, I do not think so at all. I do not see why you should wish to hamper that or any other subsidiary company. I do not think the gentlemen here present would be detained with anything of the kind. (Cheers)

The resolution was then put and was carried unanimously. Theology is both an art and a science; and just as no amount of knowledge of the science of painting will make a man an artist, so no amount of scholarship will make a man a theologian.—Rev. G. W. Allen in the *Hibbert Journal*. Ergo, theologians have no scholarship?

GERMANY AND RUSSIA.

SPEECH BY COUNT VON BULOW.

In the Reichstag on March 15 the Bavarian Socialist leader Herr von Vollmar raised the question of the relations of Germany and Russia in the debate on the salary of the Imperial Chancellor. He referred first of all to the sale of steamers by Germany to the American Line to Russian agents, and expressed a hope that the reports were true according to which the Foreign Office had protested against further transactions of this nature. He then dealt with the extradition treaties which Prussia and Bavaria had concluded with Russia in 1885 and maintained that these agreements were inconsistent with the dignity and the independence of the German Empire.

In great detail he examined the principles of the administration of justice in Russia, and described them as entirely inconsistent with the ideas of law and order. On a former occasion Count von Bulow had cited the authority of Prince Bismarck in support of the advisability of maintaining neighbourly relations with Russia. Nevertheless, there were no record many attempts at Bismarck's which showed how kindly he had felt the national humiliations which had frequently been entailed by the peculiar character of Germany's attitude towards Russia. In the memoirs of the former Minister-President of Wurtemberg, Baron von Mittnacht, Bismarck was represented as having been indignant in 1879 at the necessity imposed by the Tsar upon the Emperor William of going to meet him at Alexanderov.

In 1883 Bismarck had felt inclined to resign as a protest against the encroachment upon the independence of the German Empire which the pre-emptive behaviour of Russia seemed to involve. The extradition treaty of 1885 was the crowning point of the indignities heaped upon Germany by her eastern neighbour.

The time had come for Germany to shake off the fetters of this humiliating subordination. It would now be absurd for the Imperial Chancellor to revive against the Social Democrats the charge that they desired to precipitate war with Russia. The hopeless condition of Russian affairs had been revealed to the whole world, and not even China nowadays feared the Russian Empire.

Count von Bulow at once replied and began with an *ad captum* glorification of the foreign policy of Prince Bismarck, which he described as exalted far above the criticisms of Herr von Vollmar. The great feature of Bismarckian policy was that it had been free from the influence of personal sympathies and antipathies, and had been dictated solely by the interests of Germany. Although Herr von Vollmar had represented the prestige of Russia as being so seriously impaired, he had nevertheless reluctantly admitted that the democracy of France continued to cultivate most assiduously the Russian alliance. Nor could Herr von Vollmar deny, if he followed foreign affairs, that "the English Liberals were eagerly desirous of good relations between England and Russia." With regard to the present position of Russia, Count von Bulow observed:—

"Men of insight all the world over are more or less convinced that the position of Russia as a Great Power will survive the vicissitudes of the present war and the difficulties of the present domestic trouble. (Tropical interruptions by the Social Democrats.) Just wait and see." (Great laughter.)

The Imperial Chancellor proceeded to reiterate the charge that the Social Democrats would like to see Germany plunged into war with Russia in the interests of the Russian party of revolution, and he urged a Socialist journal in support of this opinion. Count von Bulow is very fond of dwelling upon this point, since, although the Socialists, as is well known, are very anxious to see the Russian position upon her eastern neighbour. He had often pointed out that "we are not dependent upon Russia, and that we do not run after Russia, but that we have no reason to make ourselves disagreeable to Russia as many people would like us to do." Prince Bismarck had been exposed to the same reproaches 20, and also 40, years ago, and on one occasion the great Chancellor had replied that the present discussion how perilous was the discussion of foreign affairs by people who had no real acquaintance with them.

Passing to the subject of the sale of German ships to Russian agents, he maintained that, according to international law, such transactions were legitimate. During the present war both sides had purchased many vessels from foreign owners, and the English Press had published details of the sale of British ships to the Japanese. The essential condition was that the German vessels sold to Russia should no longer fly the German flag, and that their German crews should not be compelled to serve under the Russian flag. The perfect correctness of the German attitude throughout the war was demonstrated by the criticism which had been advanced from opposite quarters. On the one hand they were accused of heaping to the Russian side, and on the other it was asserted that they desired to see Russia weakened, and were therefore secretly in favour of the prolongation of the war. There was no foundation for either of these assertions, and both the Russian and the Japanese Governments were perfectly well aware of the real attitude of Germany. He read a despatch which he had recently received from the German Minister in Tokyo to the following effect:—

"The Japanese Government has never attached any credence to anti-German insinuations (*Antisemitism*), and it has been aware that intrigues were being conducted against us. The Japanese Government has no ground to complain of us or of our mistreatment. It attaches the greatest importance to good relations and sees absolutely no ground for a collision of interests. The Japanese Foreign Minister also asked me to report that the Japanese Government, with regard to us as with regard to other Powers, will respect *fais accomplis* and acquired rights in East Asia. This, he added, was not only the first determination of the present Government, but was the permanent guiding principle of Japanese policy."

Count von Bulow went on to say that he did not know to whom the Japanese Foreign Minister referred when he spoke of anti-German insinuations; perhaps Herr von Vollmar knew. The Russian Government was similarly aware that Germany would not for the present difficulties of Russia to account against her. They would continue to cultivate their relations with Russia and would avoid an attitude of antagonism which was not necessitated by any real German interest. (Loud cheers).—*Times*.

The love of work for work's sake is not a characteristic of the present day. There is a tendency to rush and get it over. Much of our modern work is scamped or badly done. We are so anxious to catch time by the forelock that we almost tear the forelock off.—Marie Corelli.

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Hongkong, 21st April, 1905. 181

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Hongkong, 31st July, 1905. 36

CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LD.

'SUNGKIANG' FIRE, APRIL 20TH, 1904.

SHIPPER'S Underwriters and others are hereby notified that the GENERAL AVERAGE STATEMENT will be CLOSED on 15th MAY, 1905, and that all claims not sent in to the undersigned before that date cannot be taken into the Statement.

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE, Agents.

Hongkong, 18th April, 1905. 1016

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Hongkong, 18th May, 1905. 42

NOTICES OF FIRMS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

WE beg to notify the General Public that the Liability and Responsibility of Messrs. H. PRICE AND COMPANY of Hongkong in connection with the Branch of their Wine and Spirit business in Manila, Philippine Islands, ceased on the 31st January, 1905, on which date this business was purchased and taken over by the undersigned.

H. J. ANDREWS & COMPANY, Manila, Philippine Islands.

Manila, 10th April, 1905. 1006

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned beg to notify that only Mr. A. K. ARCULLI is entitled to Sign the Firm's name.

ARCULLI, CRUZ & CO.

Hongkong, 14th April, 1905. 897

NOTICE.

THE Hong Name of the Firm of L. G. PLACE TAYARES & CO., Importers, Exporters and Commission Merchants of Canton (Established in 1899), has been changed from WING WO YOUNG HONG to PO WA YOUNG HONG which said name was registered in the British Consulate at Canton on March 24th, 1905.

L. G. PLACE TAYARES & CO.

Canton, 15th April, 1905. 1009

SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

THE GLOW WORM'S LAMP—AN INGENUOUS GAYLUMETER—BRAIN DEVELOPMENT—SMOKE ANNIHILATED—FRUIT PLAGUE—COLOURS FROM MOLASSES—AN ELECTRIC LAMP FOR VEHICLES—THE POISON OF TARTS—THE HOTTEST HEAT.

To the statement that absolutely nothing is known of the light of the glow worm Dr. L. Thipson takes exception, showing that the phosphorescent organs of the glow worm and the firefly have been the subject of numerous inquiries. The source of the light proves to be not the organs themselves, but a white mucous substance known as "noctiluca" and as Dr. Thipson himself showed thirty years ago that this substance is a special product of decaying fish. It is regarded as the probable light-giving material in all animal and vegetable phosphorescence. Luminous bacteria, the tiny organisms that give light to large areas of the sea surface, certain fungi and other living forms seem to produce noctiluca. The material has a complex composition, gives in the dark like phosphorus, and is made luminous by slow oxidation. Artificial organic substances of similar nature are now known.

The novel and highly sensitive galvanometer of M. Fintoven consists of a silvered quartz fibre stretched like a violin string between the poles of a powerful electro-magnet. The passage through it of a small current causes the wire to be deflected perpendicular to the field, and the deflection can be measured directly by a microscope carrying a micrometer or it can be photographed with a suitable scale to show the curve. The sensitiveness can be regulated by adjusting the length of the wire.

The mathematical aptitude of boys and girls of 12 to 15 has been compared by Prof. V. Mercante, of Buenos Ayres, by tests of quickness in reading numbers and in arithmetical operations. A curious discovery is that an abnormal activity of memory exists at about 13, followed by a period of intellectual depression, and at 14 by a sudden leap in creative imagination and reasoning power.

The smoke-consuming device lately tested in a factory at Westminster, Eng., consists of a screen of tubular fire-bricks so placed in the furnace that all products of combustion must pass through the screen. The bricks, which are of special material, quickly become incandescent, and the great heat ensures the thorough burning of all gases and combustible material, preventing the discharge into the air of solid carbon particles. The exhaustive trials made proved that the worst quality of coal could be used under the factory boilers with practically no smoke. When damp coal dust, costing \$2.75 per ton delivered, was shoveled into the fire in quantity, a light gray cloud appeared at the top of the chimney stack, but even this disappeared in a few seconds. It is believed that this same method of the smoke problem can be successfully applied to household fires.

The peanut is one of the chief cultivated plants of German East Africa, where it has been prized for its relative freedom from disease. A mysterious malady, characterized by reddish brown spots, has not appeared, and is rapidly killing off the peanut plants of the region. A similar disease has been found in other localities without proving fatal. The cause is believed to be some unknown parasitic organism, but the sought-for fungus has not yet been found on roots, leaves or flowers.

Colouring substances from molasses in solution are obtained in Germany by precipitation with metallic salts in the presence of acids. When, for example, molybdenum salts and sulphuric acid are used, a colouring matter resembling indigo is obtained, but with a shade varying from clear green to greenish blue and deep blue according to the proportions of the mixture. The colouring matters are mostly difficult to dissolve and partly insoluble in water.

Though the efficacy of cannon firing for breaking up hail clouds has been questioned, statistics are claimed to show marked reduction in damage to the vineyards of Southern Europe since 1840. Even lightning and thunder have been suppressed in the protected area.

Oil and acetylene lamps have been depended on chiefly for motor vehicles, on account of the great weight of the accumulators hitherto necessary for feeding electric lamps. Dr. Anner, the inventor of an incandescent gas mantle, seems to have overcome the difficulty in a new electric lamp, which has been brought to a commercial stage through a long process of evolution. Tests are claimed to show a marvellous power as compared with other lamps. Two pocket accumulators, the smallest made, serve to feed an 8-volt lamp, and this is said to give a magnificent light for a motor car. The weight of the small oil is trifling. The new lamp is much like the ordinary incandescent lamp in appearance, its superior qualities being attributed to the use of certain materials—such as the rare oxides ceria and thorium—employed in the incandescent gas mantle.

Poisoning by cream tarts has been reported in many countries, and in numerous cases. A French chemist has been led to investigate, taking up especially the poisoning of five persons near Lyons by cream cakes from a certain bakery. Infection with some germ—and not the materials of the tarts—proved to be the cause of the poisoning. The exact nature of the germ was not determined, but it seemed to be associated with fermentation and a peculiar taste and odor.

The intense heat of the electric arc is not the highest produced in the workshop. Probably the highest temperature yet attained is that of A. G. Himalaya, a Portuguese, whose method consists in concentrating sunlight, and who by this means readily volatilizes every known substance. In his St. Louis experiments 6,000 silvered glass mirrors were used to throw the rays on a single point.

Both Röntgen and radium rays have given Dr. M. Kornicke a marked action on plants. Seedlings were retarded and eventually ceased growing, but in some cases revived after an interval. Germination of bean and turnip seeds was accelerated at first, beans ceasing to develop at or a time.

THE DIRECTORY AND CHRONICLE FOR 1905

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GARRISON ORDERS.

HEAD QUARTERS, HONGKONG, 19th April, 1905.
GENERAL ORDER—Gazette India.—No. 69.
The following extract from the Gazette of India is published for information—Military Department, Fort William, 3rd March 1905.
The following promotions are made, subject to His Majesty's approval.—Lieutenants to be Captains, 1st March, 1905. Outburst Gordon Hutchinson, Civil employ, Burma (93rd Burma Infantry). John D'Oyley, 119th Infantry (The Mooltan Regiment).

GARRISON ORDERS—Divine Service.—No. 1. Divine Service will be conducted on Good Friday as follows:—

| Denomination | Where held | Hour | To Officiate |
|----------------|--------------------|------------|--------------|
| Ch. of England | Victoria Cathedral | 8.30 a.m. | Chaplain |
| Ch. of England | St. John's | 11.15 a.m. | Chaplain |
| Ch. of England | St. Paul's | 11.15 a.m. | Chaplain |
| Ch. of England | St. George's | 11.15 a.m. | Chaplain |
| Ch. of England | St. Andrew's | 11.15 a.m. | Chaplain |
| Ch. of England | St. David's | 11.15 a.m. | Chaplain |
| Ch. of England | St. John's | 11.15 a.m. | Chaplain |
| Ch. of England | St. Paul's | 11.15 a.m. | Chaplain |
| Ch. of England | St. George's | 11.15 a.m. | Chaplain |
| Ch. of England | St. Andrew's | 11.15 a.m. | Chaplain |
| Ch. of England | St. David's | 11.15 a.m. | Chaplain |

Launch will leave A.S.C. Pier for Stonecutters at 10.15 a.m. Escorts as under will be furnished by the 2nd Royal West Kent Regiment to conduct prisoners to Church. Roman Catholic, one N.C.O. one man, 8.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. Leave of absence on private affairs to the neighbouring countries has been granted to 2/Lieut. H. G. Moore, Royal Garrison Artillery, from 9th May to 31st July, 1905.

R.L.M.S. *Hardinge*.—No. 4. With reference to Garrison Order No. 2 of 24th March, the relief of the 30th Punjab North China is postponed until August or September. A Wing 93rd Burma Infantry will embark with the 110th Mahratta Light Infantry on the *Hardinge* which is calling at Rangoon this voyage.

By Order,
R. E. Ross, Major,
Chief Staff Officer.

MUKDEN AND AFTER.

So far as the telegrams allow us to judge, the Japanese place the total of the Russian armies before the battle at 326,000 sabres and bayonets and 1,368 guns. The units with the Russian headquarters were believed to include 373 battalions, 175 squadrons, and 165 batteries, but, as to the strength of the infantry, opinions varied. The Japanese estimate of 800 men per battalion seems high, and it is still open to doubt whether the sabres and bayonets at disposal exceeded 300,000.

The losses hitherto reported include 50,000 prisoners and 25,500 dead, besides 80,000 wounded and killed not found on the battlefield, but whether this latter figure is an estimate or an ascertained fact we are not informed. Kurapatkin admits that 47,581 wounded were sent north between February 25 and March 11, figures that would not include the more serious cases, while it was not likely that either commander would as yet have been able to receive full reports of a battle extending over such an enormous area. As the numbers of prisoners also mount up day by day we can take it as practically established that the result of the battle has been to wipe out from one-half to two-thirds of the Russian forces in Manchuria. At 522 casualties up to the morning of March 12.

The difference in losses on one side and the other leaves the relics of the Russian army, numerically considered, in no posture to withstand further attack, nor would the small garrison of Tieling, even with the possible addition of one or two brigades of rifles from Europe, materially alter the situation. Tieling, it is true, is strongly defended, but what chance is there of stopping the victors, who even if they do not attack in front, will certainly outflank and surround the narrow gorge into which the routed army is being driven? It may be that part of Linovitch's army, which was not seriously embarrassed up to March 10th, may fight its way clear from Kuroki, but the remnants of the other two armies has ceased, for the time at least, to possess much military value. Marshal Oyama's list of the footsides and forgo taken at Mukden seems to show once more that Kurapatkin was trading on a very narrow margin of profit so far as supplies were concerned, and that scarcely a beginning had been made of the creation of a reserve supply for his armies. Is Tieling likely to be in any better case? Can the routed troops be reformed, and if so, under what circumstances? The best answer is the order issued by the St. Petersburg War Office forbidding all communications, by letter or word of mouth, to the Press. The chances are that a certain proportion of the infantry have reached Tieling, and that they are in want of nearly everything to enable them to take the field. As to the cavalry, they simply do not figure in the fighting except in Rennetkamp's mixed command, and they may all have got away with whole skins. The great mass of them must have been west of Mukden in the plain country before the battle; yet they allowed Hsin-min-tun to be snatched up under their noses by a detachment; they neither observed nor checked the critical flank march by Nogi, and they appear to have been useless to the army. Considering that, apart from the Cossacks of the eastern wing, there was a whole division from the Don on the ground, we had a right to expect better value from 30,000 of Russia's legendary horsemen.

Russia, of course, can go on as she likes, and for as long as she wishes, provided she can find the money. There is nothing else whatever to stop her save the improbable dawn of Japanese success. But is the game worth the candle, and is there anything in the realization of Japanese aspirations that can bring anything but satisfaction to the legitimate desires of the great Russian people? These are questions for Russia to answer, but we can only hope, for her sake, that she is not going to be fooled once more by Japanese like Admiral Dufosseff, who has just returned to Paris from London with the interesting information that Japan will be exhausted in four or five months. If there be a statesman in Russia, the best thing he could do for his country would be to reconstitute the Intelligence service at St. Petersburg, which has become a public danger. We are, of course, aware that the organ of the German General Staff recently committed itself to the statement that it was materially impossible for Japan to place more than 350,000 men in the field, but it is necessary for Russia to recognize the fact that the German General Staff is out of date. If we, practically without an army, placed 350,000 men in the field during a three years' war by voluntary service, what is the effort that is reasonably to be expected from 46 millions of warlike and patriotic people, engaged in a national war of existence, who have embraced the system of the nation in arms?—Times.

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